

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application, and claims 6-22 have been withdrawn. Paragraph 3 of the office action rejects claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 3,269,496 to *Kilness*, 3,866,492 to *Knoll*, 5,157,994 to *Krivec* and 6,289,771 to *Hsieh*., and paragraph 4 rejects claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,575,060 to *Tseng et al.* Finally, claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over *Kilness*, *Kroll*, *Krivec* or *Tseng et al.* as applied to claim 1, respectively, in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0083860 to *Arnold et al.*

Independent claim 1 calls for, among other things,

a pawl slidably disposed in said body . . . wherein said pawl is slidably movable between a first position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a first direction and a second position in which said body imparts rotation to said gear in a second direction opposite said first direction;

a detent disposed in said body and in operative engagement with said pawl back side so that said detent slides across said pawl back side and biases said pawl into said first and said second positions, said detent having,

a front wall,

a back wall, and

a spring base connecting said front wall and said back wall, wherein said base biases said front wall away from said back wall and toward said pawl back side; and

a lever disposed in said body, wherein said lever receives said detent so that when said lever is rotated said pawl is urged between said first and said second positions.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by *Hsieh*, *Knoll* and *Krivec* for at least the reason that each of these references fails to teach a pawl slidably disposed in a body and a lever disposed in the body that receives a detent that is operatively engaged with the pawl. Instead, *Hsieh* discloses a pawl mounted in the head on a pin such that the pawl pivots about the pin. A handle is attached to the pin for rotating the pawl between a first and second position. A spring mechanism positioned between the pawl and the body biases the pawl into contact with a gear. *Krivec* also discloses a pivotal pawl mounted in a wrench head. A torsion band 55 is received in the center of the pawl and

connects to a lever or, alternatively, a leaf spring 105 is received between the pawl and the body. Finally, *Knoll* discloses a pawl pivotally disposed about a pin mounted in a wrench body. The pawl is biased toward a gear ring by a bifurcated spring disposed between the pawl and the wrench body. For at least these reasons, each of *Hsieh*, *Knoll* and *Krivec* fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Kilness also fails to teach or disclose the claimed spring, pawl and lever combination. For example, *Kilness* discloses a spring mounted between the body and the pawl in recesses formed in the back of the pawl and in the body. The detent does not slide across the back of the pawl as called for in the claims. Additionally, *Kilness* discloses that the detent is positioned between the body and the pawl and not between the pawl and lever. For at least these reasons, *Kilness* fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Furthermore, *Tseng et al.* fails to anticipate independent claim 1 for at least the reason that it fails to teach or disclose a detent that slides across the pawl back side. Instead, *Tseng et al.* teaches a pawl having a drive plate extending generally perpendicular from a back side of the pawl. The drive plate is received in a slit formed by a connector mounted in a lever. Thus, as the lever is rotated, the drive plate moves about a chamber defined by the connector through the slit. For at least this reason, *Tseng et al.* fails to teach or disclose the claimed pawl, lever and detent combination.

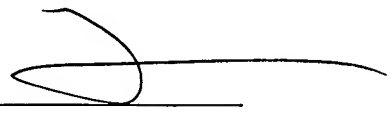
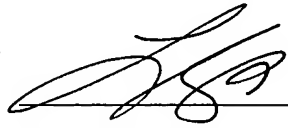
For at least the above reasons, each of *Hsieh*, *Knoll*, *Krivec*, *Kilness* and *Tseng et al.* alone, or in combination with each other, fails to teach or disclose each and every limitation called for by Independent claim 1. Dependent claims 3 – 5 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 1. These dependent claims recite further limitations and are allowable in their respective combinations.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action and withdrawal of the present rejections and objections is, therefore, respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1196.

Respectfully submitted,

NELSON MULLINS RILEY
& SCARBOROUGH, L.L.P.



Lloyd G. Farr
Registration No. 38,446
1320 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Office: (404) 817-6204
Fax: (803) 255-9831